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**OCT 26 2005**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 6,207,596  
Issue Date: March 27, 2001  
Application No. 09/188,442  
Filed: November 9, 1998  
Attorney Docket No. 7334

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**ON PETITION**

This is a decision on the petition, filed April 25, 2005, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is GRANTED.

The patent issued March 27, 2001. The grace period for paying the first maintenance fee expired on March 28, 2005. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

This matter is being referred to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

Karen Creasy  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions